

## Message Text

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PAGE 01    LENING 01974 161915Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 CU-04 ISO-00 /017 W  
----- 032309 /21  
R 161300Z DEC 76  
FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD  
TO USIA WASHDC  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2849  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS LENINGRAD 1974

USIA FOR IEU, ICS; STATE FOR EUR/SOV; MOSCOW FOR P&C

E.O. 11652: N/A  
SUBJ: PHOTOGRAPHY USA FOR LENINGRAD

REF: MOSCOW 19477

1. CONSUL GENERAL AND BPAO WERE RECEIVED MORNING DECEMBER 16 BY DEPUTY MAYOR N.G. YELISEYEVA FOR DISCUSSION OF PROSPECTS FOR PLACING PHOTOGRAPHY USA IN LENINGRAD. CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE OF MEETING WAS AFFECTED ONLY BY REFERENCE TO CONCERN ABOUT SECURITY DURING FORTHCOMING US-TOUR OF LENINGRAD PHILHARMONIC, REPORTED SEPTTEL.

2. CONSUL GENERAL REFERRED TO LAST SPRING'S EXCHANGE WITH MAYOR'S OFFICE ATTEMPTING TO SCHEDULE PHOTOGRAPHY USA IN LENINGRAD AS BICENTENNIAL EVENT ON 4TH JULY. HE EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING OF PROBLEMS, SUCH AS PROXIMITY TO CLOSING OF TAH, WHICH DID NOT MAKE SCHEDULING POSSIBLE AT THAT TIME. HE THEN NOTED THAT SITUATION WAS NOW DIFFERENT AND THAT PROPOSED MARCH OPENING SUFFICIENTLY IN ADVANCE OF 60TH ANNIVERSARY THAT IT SHOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH EVENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THAT OCCURRENCE.

3. CONSUL GENERAL THEN OUTLINED SPECIFIC REASONS  
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FOR OUR INTEREST IN HAVING EXHIBIT IN LENINGRAD INCLUDING SUCH FACTORS AS GENERAL INTEREST IN PHOTOGRAPHY OF CITY'S EDUCATED POPULACE AND INTEREST OF SPECIALISTS SUCH AS THOSE IN FIELD OF OPTICS AT LENINGRAD'S MECHANICAL-OPTICAL ENTERPRISE (LOMO), NOTING POSSIBILITY OF SEMINAR FOR PSECIALISTS AS PART OF EXHIBIT.

4. IN CLOSING CONSUL GENERAL MENTIONED DISCUSSIONS WHICH HAD OCCURRED IN MOSCOW BETWEEN EMBASSY OFFICERS AND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OFFICIALS WHICH INDICATED THAT LENINGRAD WAS BEING SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED AS FOURTH CITY AND THAT LOCAL SUPPORT WAS NEEDED FOR THIS. CONSUL GENERAL STATED HOPE THAT CITY WOULD SUPPORT OUR REQUEST AND INQUIRED ABOUT PROSPECTS.

5. MRS. YELISEYEVA RECALLED THE PREVIOUS EXCHANGE ON EXHIBIT PLACEMENT. SHE NOTED THAT THREE MAJOR EXHIBITS HAD BEEN HELD DURING THE YEAR. (PRESUMABLY REFERRING TO TAH, HAMMER EXHIBIT AND PRECOLUMBIAN GOLD).

6. SHE WENT ON TO SAY THAT IN PRINCIPLE CITY FAVORS PLACEMENT OF PHOTOGRAPHY USA HERE, BUT THAT DECISION MUST BE MADE BY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN MOSCOW. (IF CHAMBER AGREES, WE AGREE". SHE WENT ON TO NOTE THE PROBLEM OF LIMITED EXHIBIT SPACE DURING THE YEAR OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY, ESPECIALLY WITH LARGE NUMBERS OF SISTER CITY EXCHANGES EXPECTED.

7. MEETING ENDED WITH CONSUL GENERAL EXPRESSING HOPE THAT HE WOULD BE ABLE TO RECEIVE THE DEPUTY MAYOR AT THE EXHIBIT OPENING.

COMMENT - CONGEN FEELS THAT FOREGOING INDICATES THAT CITY IS WILLING TO RECEIVE EXHIBIT AND THAT CONCRETE APPROVAL FROM CHAMBER SHOULD NOT BE SOUGHT.

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ACTION REQUESTED - WHILE WE REALIZE THAT LITTLE TIME REMAINS BEFORE EXHIBIT WOULD OPEN HERE, WE HOPE SERIOUS EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO ORGANIZE A SEMINAR IN LENINGRAD. NEUBERT

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CULTURAL EXHIBITS, PHOTOGRAPHS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**TAGS:** SCUL, UR, US  
**To:** USIA  
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